FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MAY 1987

Egypt

The government is taking measures to provide further security and protection for foreigners in Cairo, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi stated in remarks reported by MENA. Sidqi and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid both deplored the attack on U.S. Embassy staffers and promised that security forces will do their utmost to find the culprits, the agency noted. A description of the attackers given by the two injured Americans is similar to that of individuals wanted in connection with earlier attacks on Israelis in Cairo, MENA noted.

Syria's *Tishrin* welcomed the attack in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio, stating that the incident is an extension of the Egyptian people's revolt against the "capitulatory regime" and is a true expression of their grudge against those who act as "helpers and partners of the Arab nation's enemy." The attack on the U.S. presence by "heroes of Arab Egypt" has "large and profound" implications, the paper asserted. Tehran radio's Arabic service likewise said the attack was carried out by "Egyptian Muslim rebels" who have resolved to attack U.S. and Israeli personnel in Egypt as long as President Husni Mubarak's "Zionist and anti-Islam regime" continues to cooperate with the "usurpers of Jerusalem." Both Tehran and Tripoli radios also cited reports of a recent attack by "nomads" on the U.S. ambassador's car in Egypt. Quoting an unspecified Kuwaiti paper, Tripoli radio said this incident occurred when the ambassador was driving back to Cairo from the western desert oasis of Siwa, adding that the car was hit and could not make the journey back to the capital.

Israel

Pollard Affair — An Inner Cabinet recommendation to adopt the Rotenstreich-Tzur report on the Pollard affair was approved at a 27 May Cabinet session, IDF radio reported. On the contents of the report, Jerusalem radio noted that it criticizes present and former Prime Ministers Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, and Yitzhaq Rabin for their handling of the Pollard affair, but places ultimate responsibility collectively on the whole government. The document also criticizes former intelligence chief Rafi Eytan and Colonel Avi'em Sela' for their role in the affair.

As for the related report of the Knesset subcommittee chaired by MK Abba Eban, Jerusalem radio noted that both Peres and Rabin criticized the "political" character of this report, which holds Peres more responsible for the affair than other politicians because he was prime minister when it was revealed. Peres defended himself against the committee's criticisms in an IDF radio interview, asserting that he acted "correctly" and "rescued the country from an extremely grave and difficult situation." IDF radio earlier broadcast a statement by Eban, who noted his committee's recommendation that "the government would be wise to state unequivocally that the state of Israel admits its responsibility and will continue to act to correct the damages." The committee considered that this should have been the government's immediate reaction to the Pollard crisis, he said, adding that the political echelon committed other mistakes by seeking to promote Col Sela' and by failing to investigate Rafi Eytan's operation. While emphasizing the committee's judgment that the political echelon did not approve or know about Eytan's recruitment of Pollard, Eban noted its view that "this was not a rogue operation" and Israel cannot shake off responsibility.

Gaza, West Bank — Security forces suspect that "terrorists" were responsible for the killing of a policeman in Gaza 26 May, Jerusalem radio reported. A Nabulus resident was shot dead the same evening while participating in riots which were dispersed by IDF gunfire, the radio said.

Iran

Besharati on Kuwait — In remarks cited by IRNA, acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati warned that if "the big powers" take any action against Iran's interests, Iran will "make Kuwait sorry" for inviting the superpowers into the region. The minister also asserted that during his recent tour of Gulf and African states he learned that Kuwait had "bribed" the Muslim countries to participate in the Islamic summit held recently in Kuwait, adding that an official of one country said his government received 200 million dollars from Kuwait.

Cuban Foreign Minister's Visit — Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Tehran for talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Tehran radio reported.

Opposition Activity — A Mojahedin-e Khalq communique cited by AFP claimed that 25 Iranian government soldiers and two Mojahedin fighters were killed in a 2 May battle in Tehran.

Tunisia

Security forces discovered the headquarters of a secret pro-Khomeyni organization in Tunis and arrested several of the group's leaders and members, Tunis radio announced. "A huge quantity" of equipment used by the outfit to carry out "terrorist and destructive" activities was seized in the raid.

Lebanon

The Lebanese Forces Command Council welcomed the Chamber of Deputies recent decision to cancel the Cairo Agreement, but termed it "incomplete" because it failed to address the issue of Syrian forces in Lebanon, according to a statement cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The statement called on the Chamber to take "a similar step" regarding the Syrian military presence in Lebanon to demonstrate the "illegitimacy" of this presence.

PDRY

In a press interview cited by Aden radio, Minister of State Security Sa'id Salih Salim discussed "biased rumors" being spread by "antirevolutionary forces." He said the rumors have "no relevance whatsoever to our conditions" and urged officials and the masses not to heed or circulate "such allegations," but to strive to establish their source and the intentions behind them and then "put an end" to them in coordination with the party organization.

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Foreign Affairs Minister Comments on Geneva Talks

LD241016 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 23, *Bakhtar* — The DRA, in the Geneva talks by offering new and specific initiative and proposals, have [as received] adopted a constructive and flexible stand for the quick political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, said 'Abdol Wakil Politburo member of the PDPA CC, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA replying to questions posed by the party members of the DRA which was telecast by T.V. here.

It was because of this flexibility that in the recent round of the Geneva talks distance between the stands of the two sides have [as received] remarkably decreased, and hope for the successful termination of the next round of talks, if the Pakistani side shows its goodwill political gesture and its (?realistic) stand, will be further increased, he said.

In our points of view, talks between the DRA and Pakistan have not yet faced a standstill. The talks will continue, as it was announced at the end of the third phase of the seventh round of talks, the next phase of talks will be fixed and be announced through the diplomatic channels, he added.

The basic subjects which are included in the framework of the talks is an immediate stop of foreign interventions in the internal affairs of the DRA, non-resumption guarantee, voluntarily return of Afghan refugees to their ancestral home, and their linkage to the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union to their country, he stressed.

Although the fact that the policy of national reconciliation and the Geneva talks between the state of the DRA and Pakistan, are two separate processes, but they have mutual effects on each other. [sentence as received] Both of them are aimed at only one objective, that is, ending of foreign interventions in the internal affairs of the DRA, ending of war and bloodshed in the DRA and finally maintenance of peace and security in our region, the minister of foreign affairs of the DRA pointed out.

Denounces Aid to Pakistan

LD250629 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 24, *Bakhtar* — The military regime of Pakistan has made the maximum political and propaganda advantage of the undeclared war against the DRA for the consolidation of the trembling pillars of the military regime.

This was said by 'Abdol Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, responding to the questions raised by the party members at party sessions last month.

Pakistan is doing so in order to divert the attention of the Pakistani people from their own demands to the so-called problem of Afghanistan. Pakistan under the pretext of the humanistic duty of safeguarding the refugees, has been receiving millions of dollars from the different imperialist and reactionary sources as well as extensive military and financial assistance from the United States in particular. Saudi Arabia, a number of other wealthy countries of the region as well as Western European countries including Federal Republic of Germany, England, France and Japan have given a large amount of money to Pakistan.

The recent interest-free credit of 500 million dollars by Iran to Pakistan during the last year's visit of 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of Iran to that country is another assistance of Iran to Islamabad.

The United States, A. Wakil added, had firstly put at the disposal of Pakistan an amount of four hundred million dollars as a military aid and later under the agreement of 1983 an amount of 3.3 billion dollars in which the delivery of F-16 planes had also been included.

Later, Washington signed an agreement of 4.02 billion dollars of military economic assistance to Pakistan for another five years in which AWACS planes either on a sale or rent bases is included.

Moreover, the U.S. imperialism and its allies through the Government of Pakistan have aided the opposition groups of the DRA to the amount of three to four billion dollars in the form of weapons and military munitions since the beginning of the undeclared war against the DRA.

According to the press reports quoting Washington sources, said DRA foreign minister, half of the said aid has gone to the pocket of the Government of Pakistan. It would amount to billions of dollars taking into account the misuse made by Pakistan from the aid given to the refugees from these countries and other international organisations. These are the colossal benefits accruing to the ruling regime of Pakistan from the undeclared war against the DRA.

Najibullah Congratulates Hungary's Kadar on Birthday

LD270613 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 26, *Bakhtar* — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, sent a message to Budapest addressed to Janos Kadar, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party congratulating him on his 75th birthday.

The message says that the existing fraternal relations between the parties, states and peoples of the two countries will certainly expand further and reach new qualitative levels. We are sure that the people of Hungary with the realisation of the programme of action of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party will achieve ever-greater successes in social progress.

Polish Planning Chief Meets With Keshtmand

LD252225 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, this morning met with Comrade Manfred Gorywoda, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee of the People's Republic of

Poland, who is on a friendly working visit to Afghanistan. The meeting took place at the headquarters of the DRA Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, matters concerning the expansion of trade and economic and technical cooperation between the DRA and Poland were discussed. In the course of these talks, agreements were reached on some aspects of the broadening of cooperation in various spheres of economic growth in the DRA and aid from Poland.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed his pleasure at the progress of the Polish Government toward overcoming the problems faced by that country and the implementation of the policy of the Polish United Workers Party in enhancing the economy and standard of living of the people of that friendly fraternal country. He also expressed gratitude for Poland's support for the policy of national reconciliation in the DRA.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee of the DRA; Muhammad Daud Ramiar, official in charge of the Economic Department of the PDPA Central Committee; and Edward Poradko, Polish ambassador in Kabul.

Holds Talks With Mohammad Aziz

LD270003 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Mohammad Aziz, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee, this morning met Manfred Gorywoda, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee of the People's Republic of Poland. They discussed economic and technical cooperation between Afghanistan and Poland.

BIA reports that at the end of this meeting, which took place at State Planning Committee headquarters, Gorywoda presented the gifts from his country's State Planning Committee to the DRA State Planning Committee. The gifts were accepted with thanks.

Kabul Notes Rebel Arms Seized in Baghlan Province

LD261635 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Arms caches belonging to the extremists have been seized by the security forces in response to demands by the National Reconciliation Commission in Andarab district, Baghlan Province, and in cooperation with the toiling people of that district.

According to a BIA report, the people of Qashan, (Chasar), and Nawbahar villages, Andarab district, contacted the National Reconciliation Commission recently. They asked the commission to take action against extremist elements who were attempting to engage in subversion and were disrupting life in these regions.

Responding to the people's demands and observing the principles of the cease-fire, the security forces surrounded the hideouts of the extremist elements and asked them to peacefully lay down their weapons and to surrender.

The extremists, however, without observing the rules of the cease-fire, opened fire on the security forces and refused to surrender. The security forces then returned fire to prevent them from perpetrating a crime. As a result, the gang was crushed and two criminals were captured. A total of 144 ground-to-ground missiles, 21 assorted weapons including heavy and light weapons, tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition, and a number of antivehicle mines were seized.

The report adds that after the extremist group was crushed, the people of Qashan, (Chasar), and Nawbahar villages held meetings and decided to form security groups in their villages in order to maintain peace and security and to prevent extremist elements from entering their areas.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Dobrynin

Gandhi To Visit Moscow in July

BK211418 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] The secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Anatoliy Dobrynin, held discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The focus of their deliberations was largely on Mr Gandhi's forthcoming visit to Moscow and talks that he would then hold with the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev.

The prime minister will be in Moscow in early July for the inauguration of the Festival of India. The two leaders will also review bilateral relations, particularly decisions taken during the visit of Mr Gorbachev to New Delhi, in areas like trade, economy and science and technology. The international situation and the situation in our region also figured at their talks. Mr Dobrynin handed over to Mr Gandhi a warm and personal message from Mr Gorbachev.

Departure Statement Issued

BK270913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] The secetary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Dobrynin, has said that Moscow and New Delhi share a common dedication to the struggle for peace and the security of nations.

In a statement issued before he left for home this morning, Mr Dobrynin said both the nations strongly oppose imperialism, colonialism, racism, and apartheid. Expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the talks he had with the Indian leaders, he said Indo-Soviet relations have a great future.

The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and India's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr T.N. Kaul, were present at the airport to see him off.

Gandhi on President's Rule in Punjab, Fairfax Issue

BK240945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the president's rule in Punjab was imposed because fundamentalism was raising its ugly head. A situation had developed when the normal constitutional machinery in the state had virtually come to a grinding halt. The governor sent his report, and the center had to respond.

In an interview with the capital's Hindi daily, Mr Gandhi indicated that popular government would return in Punjab since the assembly had only been suspended.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said he did not doubt Mr Barnala's keen desire to implement the Punjab accord. But a schism developed in the chief minister's party, and he found himself helpless and his hands were tied.

About the Fairfax affair, he said he would take action when the commission appointed to inquire into the matter submits its report to the government. Mr Gandhi said he would continue his fight against vested interests relentlessly and against those who are taking advantage of the present position. Such opposition always develops when anybody tries to bring about a change. Pandit Nehru [first prime minister of India] had to face such opposition; others faced it too. It has to be taken in the stride, he said.

Gandhi Regrets Controversy Over President's Powers

BK220618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that he is not against a national debate on the president's powers under the Constitution including his right to information. He regretted that instead of a healthy debate a controversy has been generated. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at an Iftar [Muslim fast-breaking] party hosted by the tourism minister, Mufti Mohammad Syed, in New Delhi last night.

Sri Lankan Commissioner Delivers Message to Gandhi

BK230344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and conveyed a message from President Jayewardene on the situation in the island. Mr Tilakaratna returned to New Delhi on Thursday after consultations with his government in Colombo. The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, was present at yesterday's meeting. Mr Dixit also apprised Mr Rajiv Gandhi of the developments in the island.

India has again told Sri Lanka that the fast deteriorating situation in the Jaffna Peninsula and the highly critical references against India by Sri Lankan leaders are not conducive for finding a solution to the ethnic problem. India's sentiments were understood to have been conveyed to the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, by the first secretary of the Indian high commission in Colombo, Mr H.S. Puri, yesterday.

Tiwari Voices Concern Over Sri Lanka 'Ethnic Crisis'

BK220626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Tiwari, has said that the deepening ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka is causing anxiety and grave concern to India. He said that the government, however, firmly believes in a peaceful political settlement.

Admitting that the Tamil population in the island have genuine and long-standing grievances, he expressed the hope that the parties to ethnic issue will show a sense of statesmanship, accom-

modation and restraint to facilitate an early solution. Delivering the valedictory address at the 26th annual conference of the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation in New Delhi yesterday, he said India is making all efforts to improve relations with her neighbors.

Government Support for Jaffna Offensive Denied

BK250316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka has categorically denied a report in the government media in Colombo that India has given a green signal for a military crackdown on Tamil militants in Jaffna peninsula. A High Commission spokesman said in Colombo yesterday that the report is totally mischievous and misleading. He described it as an insidious attempt to drive a wedge between the central government and the people of Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu has refuted the Sri Lankan Government's allegation that the state government has provided 40 million rupees to the Tamil militants. At a function in Madras yesterday, the Tamil Nadu food minister, Mr S. Ramachandran, said that the chief minister had announced the aid to have [as heard] Tamil civilians affected by the economic blockade imposed by the Sri Lankan Government in Jaffna. He said the amount is to be disbursed through organizations engaged in rehabilitation of the suffering Tamil civilians and not to the Tamil militants.

Jaffna Assault Condemned

BK270312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the all-out government offensive in Jaffna peninsula yesterday has claimed over 100 lives. Among those killed were at least 20 militants and 11 soldiers; 65 soldiers have also been injured. The multipronged attack started early yesterday morning with troops being airlifted by helicopters and landing at least in three places in the peninsula. The landing is meant primarily to strike the heart of the Tamil militancy in the (Watanarachi) division of the Jaffna peninsula.

India has strongly condemned the massive assault. An official statement in New Delhi expressed grave concern and sorrow at the widespread sufferings and casualties. India is concerned that this will also result in further influx of refugees and add to the large number already in the country. Reiterating that there can be no long-term solution to the ethnic problem through violent means, the statement urged Colombo to take measures to restore the trust and confidence of its Tamil citizens.

Defense Minister Comments on Nuclear Policy, AWACS

BK241614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has reiterated that India is committed to using nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Addressing the concluding session of a seminar on security environment in South Asia in the next decade in New Delhi today, he said India's policy is very clear. But once Pakistan displays its bomb, we have to think on our policy. Mr Pant said India believes in improved friendly relations with its neighbors. But it was not something which could be done unilaterally. He pointed out that Pakistan is on its way to get the AWACS which would pose a new threat to India's security, and added this cannot be ignored.

Referring to SAARC, he said this regional platform provides a forum for its members to forge constructive ties and eliminate suspicion. There is, however, a need to work very hard and broaden the areas of cooperation in all possible spheres.

Further Reportage on Violence in Meerut, Delhi

Pakistanis Held; Curfew Relaxed

BK270332 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] The situation in Meerut is gradually improving. A police spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent this morning that the curfew is being relaxed in more areas in phases today. It will be relaxed from 0900 to 1200 in Kotwali police station area and from 1500 to 1800 in Lal Kurthi, Sadar Bazaar, and Delhi Gate. The spokesman said depending on the situation, the afternoon curfew relaxation is likely to be extended by an hour.

Official sources also say two Pakistani nationals were arrested during the house-to-house search in Meerut city. The situation is being reviewed to relax the curfew in the remaining areas of the city. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the last 36 hours. Contingents of security forces are, however, patrolling the affected areas to avert any untoward incident. Combing operations are continuing in various localities and a large number of illicit arms and ammunition and stolen goods have been recovered.

According to police sources, six bodies were recovered from Ganga Canal near Ballipura in Bulandshahr district yesterday evening. The bodies have been sent for post mortem. Details are awaited.

Curfew in the Walled City area of Delhi was relaxed for 2½ hours from 0500 this morning. The situation in the area continues to be peaceful and incident-free.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has invited leaders of main opposition parties for a meeting in New Delhi today to discuss the situation arising out of the recent communal disturbances. The meeting scheduled to take place yesterday was not held as some of the opposition leaders were away from Delhi.

Investigation of Troops 'Excesses'

BK270528 Hong Kong AFP in English 0513 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 27 (AFP) — Paramilitary troops are suspected of having killed at least 53 people in the riot-hit north

Indian city of Meerut in a massacre now under official investigation, reports said here Wednesday. Many corpses were disposed of clandestinely and several dumped in a well at Mallian, a Moslem area in Meerut, where a week of murderous Hindu-Moslem riots have left more than 110 dead, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency said.

Rebellious Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) troopers went on the rampage in Mallian Saturday after they were asked to withdraw from the area. Reports Tuesday had put the toll at 18 dead. Five victims were hospitalised in Ghaziabad, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Meerut, where three of them died, UNI said.

THE HINDU newspaper said Wednesday that 34 bodies, suspected to be victims of the Mallian massacre, have so far been fished out of river canals. Fourteen corpses were recovered Tuesday from a canal at Murad Nagar, a town on the Delhi-Meerut road, it said.

The federal government ordered an investigation into the massacre Tuesday after police Sunday fished out 18 corpses from the Hindon River in Ghaziabad. Two bodies were recovered from the Hindon canal in east Delhi. The 18 corpses recovered from Ghaziabad took the official death toll in the bloody Hindu-Moslem riots in Meerut to more than 110. Military sources, doctors and journalists on the spot had put the toll at more than 140.

Officials first said the 18 bodies were covered in stab wounds, but now admit that the victims had been shot dead.

Troops of the Hindu-dominated PAC allegedly picked up the 18 victims Saturday in Mallian, on the outskirts of Meerut, shot them dead and threw their bodies into the Hindon. A PAC platoon was in Mallian at the time.

UNI quoted Meerut's district magistrate, Radhey Shyam Kaushik, as saying Tuesday that he had information of seven more deaths in the incident.

The massacre took place when PAC troops were ordered to withdraw from Mallian after complaints that they were killing people by firing at random during a house-to-house search for weapons in the area. Officials said the PAC was attacked first.

The Uttar Pradesh State government which rules Meerut has asked a senior judge to investigate PAC "excesses." It withdrew the force from Mallian and replaced it with army and federal paramilitary forces.

Punjab Violence Continues; 6 Reported Killed

BK270348 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists and a police constable were killed in separate incidents in Faridkot and Jullundur districts since last night. In Faridkot, one police constable was killed while another wounded seriously when three terrorists attacked them at Moga. According to the police chief, Mr Ribeiro, one of the terrorists was killed in the encounter while other two managed to escape. Mr Ribeiro said in two other encounters with police and paramilitary forces two terrorists were killed in Faridkot district and two in Jullundur district early this morning. Large quantities of arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

Arms Seized From Gurkha Front Hideouts; 14 Arrested

BK220616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] In the biggest-ever haul of arms and ammunition in Darjeeling district, police yesterday seized a large number of guns, revolvers, 20 bombs, and a huge quantity of explosive material during raids on GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] hideouts.

According to the DIG [deputy inspector general] of police, Mr S.R. Banerjee, 14 GNLF militants were arrested during the raids.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has said that his Left Front government is prepared to give more autonomy to the hill districts of Darjeeling and it supports the inclusion of Nepali [language] in the eighth schedule of the constitution. He told newsmen in Bombay that his government, however will not tolerate the Gurkhaland movement.

Curfew Imposed in Amreli in Gujarat After Clashes

BK261612 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] In Gujarat, indefinite curfew has been clamped in Amreli town from 1500 this evening following group clashes.

According to official sources, police resorted to firing to disperse a violent crowd indulging in stone throwing and arson. Two persons were injured.

2 Killed in Amreli Violence

BK270340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] In Gujarat, indefinite curfew is being strictly enforced in Amreli town from 1500 yesterday. Senior police officials are keeping a close watch over the situation which is now under control. No untoward incident has been reported during last night.

The district superintendent of police told our Ahmadabad correspondent this morning that two persons were killed — one in police firing and another in arson — during yesterday's violence.

Three persons were injured in police firing and stabbing incidents and two policemen sustained injuries in stone throwing.

Police in Ahmadabad have arrested three persons in connection with an explosion in Gomtipur area yesterday. Further investigation is on.

Commentary Criticizes U.S., Australian Role in Fiji

BK221438 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 22 May 87

[Ranjan Gupta commentary: "Fijian Crisis"]

[Text] Though the coup in the Pacific island of Fiji appears to have ended, a constitutional crisis has begun with the governor general saying that he will order fresh elections and the prime minister who had been imprisoned for almost a week declaring that he continues to be the legitimate prime minister of the country. This, of course, is no reason why fresh elections should be held. The island nation went through an election process only a little more than a month ago.

Soon after the general elections of the country, a military officer, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, along with 10 masked soldiers stormed parliament house and arrested the prime minister and members of his cabinet. The coup leader declared himself head of the country and said he would frame a new constitution which would debar Indians from having a say in the running of the country. The governor general of the island, Penaia Ganilau, refused to accept the backdoor government of Col Rabuka, though there is confusion about the relationship of the governor general and the coup leader.

There is a devious game being played out by some countries in the tiny and rather obscure island of Fiji. A sinister move would have Fijian Indians be declared outsiders and outcasts. Nothing could be farther from the truth than to look at the people of Indian origin as foreigners. Most of the Indians in Fiji are descendents of indentured laborers, people who went as coolies [menial laborers] to develop the economy of Fiji over 100 years ago. Many Fijian Indians have lived for three generations in Fiji, some even more. The only home they know is Fiji. After all, to live in a place for 100 years certainly entitles one to call it home.

This is not the first attempt to discredit Indians in Fiji. In the 1982 elections, the former prime minister, Mr Ratu Mara, a creation of the Americans and Australians, accused the Indian high commissioner of meddling in Fijian affairs and using money from Moscow to fund the Indian-dominated National Federation Party. The smear campaign was used to discredit the Indian party and slander India. Mrs Indira Gandhi snubbed the Fijian prime minister by refusing to attend a regional Commonwealth conference in Suva. Now we hear that Ratu Mara is the brain behind the coup, which may not be just hearsay, as he was among the first to be installed as a minister by the military junta. In fact, it appears Colonel Rabuka and Ratu Mara are good friends.

Several countries are fishing in the troubled waters of the South Pacific. The United States was not happy with the new government's nonaligned foreign policy and its intention to open a diplomatic mission in New Delhi. Many newspapers in several countries have said that the American CIA was behind the coup, but that has not been proved though the suspicion remains. The role of Australia has been dubious in the Fijian crisis. Certainly, Australia has not gone along with India's efforts to restore the agreement of 1970 and seek a Commonwealth solution, which would ensure that the elected government of Prime Minister Bavadra is restored.

India has found New Zealand and Britain more cooperative in its efforts to restore normalcy. One wonders why Australia is dragging its feet on Fiji. The Australian Government, like that of the United States, has not been happy about the Fijian Government's nonaligned policy. It has already been accused by another nonaligned Pacific country, Vanuatu, of interfering in its internal affairs and telling it what foreign policy to pursue. Excluding Indians from power-sharing may suit the Americans and Australians very well. Britain, as a party to the agreement of 1970, has a special role, as does Queen Elezabeth, who is the Fijian head of state. So does New Zealand, as the major South Pacific power [as heard], and India.

While the Fijian Indians are Fijians, nevertheless India has a moral obligation toward them. I remember last October when the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was visiting New Zealand, several Indians, including those who had come all the way from Fiji, gathered to welcome him. Suddenly some had started singing Jan Gan Man [Indian national anthem], and in a moment everyone in the room was singing the national song. Some cried as they sang, because they thought of the home of their forefathers, of a land so far away. Can we foresake those Fijian Indians in the hour of plight? Certainly not. And an insult to Indians anywhere is an insult to India.

Emissaries Sent to UK, Australia on Fiji Developments

BK221632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The prime minister is sending his special emissaries to Australia, New Zealand, and Britain to discuss developments in Fiji with leaders of these countries. While the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, visits Australia and New Zealand, Mr Natwar Singh goes to Britain. Both are leaving New Delhi tomorrow. Mr Faleiro will be in Australia until the 25th of this month. He returns from New Zealand on the 27th. Mr Natwar Singh will hold talks in London with the British leaders and also the Commonwealth secretary general, Mr Ramphal.

Briefing newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said these discussions will explore ways to see how democratically elected government could be restored to power in Fiji, provision of the 1970 Constitution upheld, and racial harmony preserved in the island.

PATRIOT Assesses PRC Official's Statement on Border

BK251212 Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 87 p 4

[Editorial: "What Beijing Action]"

[Text] Beijing's statement of 7 May on the China-India borders enhances anxiety about China's immediate intentions. This time the Chinese official spokesman has said: "Faced with the tense situation along the Sino-Indian border, the Chinese side cannot stand by without action". The official spoke of India's "large-scale military exercises" near the Sino-Indian borders. Since India has officially stated that no such military exercise is under way in the areas near China's territory, it is not clear what the

Chinese side has in mind when it alleges an occurrence which has not happened. If Chinese officials have queries about the annual deployment of troops after the snows have melted and repair of certain facilities (a normal feature in summer months), these certainly could have been obtained through the usual diplomatic channels. There was no need for the Chinese officials to talk of "tensions" on the borders.

Astonishingly, these statements have come after the stop-over Mr K.C. Pant made in Beijing on 17 April and External Affairs Minister N.D. Tiwari and Indian officials reiterated the Indian resolve to find a peaceful solution of the border dispute and, until such a settlement has become possible, to do nothing that would aggravate the situation or generate tensions. The Indian stand has remained unaffected by China's intrusion in the Sumdorong Chu Valley of Arunachal Pradesh and other reports of somewhat unusual Chinese military build-up and movement in the contiguous Tibetan territory.

The Chinese allege that "tension" is being stepped up by Indian activities along the border; and in another context they speak of the Indian intrusions across the Line of Actual Control. From this, it is difficult to deduce if they are using the words "border" and "the Line of Actual Control" interchangeably or they are referring to two different segments of the disputed boundary. If the eastern segment of the boundary is what they have in mind then the question arises why China has chosen this time to activate what was till recently a notional dispute concerning a segment which the late Mr Zhou Enlai and Mr Deng Xiaoping had been inclined to accept as settled with minor modifications. In assessing Beijing's reactions it is relevant to take into account the Chinese estimate of India's current situation. The domestic developments in this country and the arms build-up on the Pakistan borders could send China wrong signals. However, there is no call for reading too dire a meaning into China's moves at present. All efforts should be made, without lowering guard on the borders or allowing China a veto in India's Arunachal Pradesh, to defuse the tensions being stoked by Beijing.

Bomb Explodes at Indian Consulate in Karachi

BK270950 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, May 27 (AFP) — A bomb exploded early Wednesday in the visa section of the Indian Consulate-General here, police said. There were no casualties as the consulate was closed at the time, but some minor damage was caused. There was no immediate indication who was responsible.

Foreign Secretary Expresses Regret

BK271246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] An explosive device was thrown at the Indian Consulate in Karachi this morning causing damage to the building. Nobody was hurt. The explosion made a hole in the roof of a nearby shed and the Consul General Mr Aftab said device appears to have been thrown from a sidestreet bordering the chancery wall.

The Pakistani additional foreign secretary, Mr Tanveer Ahmed Khan, spoke to the Indan ambassador, Mr S.K. Singh, and expressed his government's regret over the incident.

Indus Water Commission Meets in Islamabad

BK251108 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] India has agreed to share with Pakistan flood forecast data for Chenab, Ravi, and Jammu Tawi Rivers from July next.

The data is recorded at Salal, Madhaopur, and Jammu.

The permanent Indus Water Commission, which met in Islamabad today, signed its annual report for 1986-87.

India also conveyed its decision to take up with Pakistan the Tumbal navigation project in the Jhelum at government level as provided in the Indus water treaty.

It is designed to ensure year-round navigation in Jhelum by reducing the rate of depletion of the Wular Lake in Kashmir.

It will also benefit Pakistan by augmenting the lean season flows.

India has agreed to stop further work on the Tumbal project for 3 months as a gesture of goodwill.

SRI LANKA

Air, Land, Sea Assault on Jaffna Peninsula Reported

BK261426 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 26 May 87

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 26 (AFP) — Several thousand Sri Lankan Government troops landed in the Jaffna peninsula Tuesday in a land, air and sea assault aimed at smashing Tamil separatist strongholds in the north, officials here said.

Some troops were air-dropped along the Tamil-dominated peninsula Tuesday, as others were landed by ship in a long-expected campaign to crush the separatists, the officials said. Preliminary reports said that about 20 separatists had been killed in a single clash.

The attack, "Operation Liberation" began with a 48-hour curfew declared at 6:00 a.m. local time Tuesday. Civilians were given two hours to move into 18 specified safe areas such as churches and schools, the officials said. Government sources said civilians had been notified of the attack in pamphlets printed in Tamil and English dropped from helicopters. The curfew enabled security forces to move thousands of troops into position by air and sea, the sources said.

Senior government sources said resistance was encountered only at Thondamanaru, where 20 separatists were killed.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali reviewed the situation Tuesday in the company of General Cyril Ranatunga, the joint operations commander, and the Army chief General Nalin Seneviratne.

In related clashes, officials said that seven security men had been killed Monday in three separate explosions in the north and east. Five soldiers were killed and another one seriously injured when a land mine exploded at Vakarai in Eastern Batticaloa District Monday evening, government sources said. Earlier Monday a soldier died at the Kurumbasetty camp in the north when a separatist-fired mortar bomb exploded inside the camp. Another soldier was killed along the Palaly road at Kankesanthurai in the north when a security patrol hit a booby-trap.

The independent Tamil-language *Virakesari* said Tuesday that security forces in the Jaffna town area killed 20 civilians and injured many others from May 17 to 20.

Nearly all civilians living in the vicinity of 11 security camps in the north had evacuated their homes despite a shortage of transport caused because security forces in Jaffna shot at minibuses on the roads, the newspaper said.

The newspaper added that security forces at Palaly, Elephant Pass, and Kattuwan Army camps had encountered stiff resistance as they tried to advance from their positions Sunday and Monday. Fighting had been especially fierce Sunday at Elephant Pass, the gateway to the northern Jaffna peninsula, the report said. [passage omitted]

Curfew Imposed as Assault Begins

BK261539 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1530 GMT 26 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 26 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The Media Center in Colombo issued the following special government communique this evening.

The government of Sri Lanka declared at 6 am (0600 hours local time) today 26-05-87 a 48 hour curfew in the Jaffna Peninsula stretching from Elephant Pass to Karainagar, Thondamannaru and Velvettithurai.

Special leaflets in English and Tamil were dropped from aircraft stating the following: Citizens requested to move within two hours to the following areas.

St. Michaels Church Navanthurai, Stanley College Jaffna, Orphanage Colombaththurai, Girls School Uduvil, Maha Vidyalaya Urumpirai, glass factory Neervely, Nediakadu Pulliyar Kovil, Imayam Lingeswar Kovil, Imayam Vairara Kovil, Virava Kovil Kottavattai, Tikkam Kannagi Amman Kovil, Kelavithottam Amman Kovil, Thatcharamara Kovil, Pattalavu Pulliyar Kovil, Valliparam Kovil, Suttipuram Amman Kovil, St. Anthony' Church Point Palmyrah. The citizens of Jaffna Peninsula were given two hours notice by these leaflets to move to the nearest places mentioned above.

Security forces from Thondamannar, Vasavilan, Velmettroi, Ankesanturai, Kattuwan, Palaly and Elephant Pass are advancing. LTTE and EROS bases, camps and hide outs are being surrounded with the help of spotter aircraft. Aerial action is allowed only in extreme cases.

So far very little direct terrorist resistance has been met except for land mines and booby traps planted on various approaches to terrorist strongholds and on roads leading to the heart of the city of Jaffna. The security forces advance is necessarily slow as to avoid civilian casualties and to avoid booby traps and land mines.

The Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali visited the front lines in Jaffna this morning.

Heavy Fighting, Casualties Noted

BK261625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Sri Lankan Air Force planes and helicopters bombed and strafed wide areas of Jaffna Peninsula this morning. The Army has come out of the camp for an all-out offensive against the Jaffna town. According to an official communique in Colombo, a 48-hour curfew has been imposed in the entire peninsula from 0600 this morning. Leaflets dropped from air asked the residents to move into 18 specific temples, churches, and schools for safety within 2 hours.

Reports reaching Colombo speak of heavy fighting in almost all the sectors of the peninsula with a severe battle going on near the

Jaffna Fort. The coastal areas were also shelled by gunboats. Official sources claim that at least 20 militants were killed in the operation today. The details of civilian casualties are not yet known.

Our Colombo correspondent Piabon Majumder reports that the Sri Lankan Armed Forces have been carrying out major military operations in the peninsula since the 17th of this month, but this is the first time it has been officially stated that the objective is to extend control over Jaffna. At least 60 persons, including 30 civilians, died last week in the operation.

The Air Force planes yesterday bombed a gathering observing a festival at Sadhumalai Amman temple, killing 15 and injuring 35 civilians.

LTTE Claims 'About 100' Killed

BK261712 Hong Kong AFP in English 1704 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Madras, May 26 (AFP) — About 100 Tamil civilians were killed when the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the island's northern Jaffna peninsula Tuesday, the most powerful Tamil separatist group said here.

Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters and bombers pounded houses and schools in the Tamil-dominated peninsula as thousands of government troops attacked guerrilla bases, a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) spokesman said here. Naval gunboats were also directing artillery fire to break up-country attacks by LTTE guerrillas, he added.

Six Air Force jets, two seaplanes and eight helicopters dropped incendiary bombs and set ablaze schools, houses, temples and shops in 10 residential areas of the peninsula, the LTTE spokesman said.

The LTTE, the biggest of five major groups battling for a Tamil homeland in the island, had said earlier this month that it would "fight to the finish" to retain control of Jaffna.

Hundreds of Sri Lankan troops have been air dropped at strategic points at Koddigamam, Varani, and Mandalai to cut off the Tamil stronghold of Vadamarachi from the rest of the peninsula, the spokesman said.

Heavy fighting was still reported to be raging between security forces and Tamil guerrillas in Jaffna town, Vallaiveli, Manakadu, Point Pedro, Palali and Elephant Pass — some of the main Tamil strongholds in the north, the spokesman said quoting latest available reports from the Island. Earlier Colombo reports said some 20 Tamil Tiger guerrillas had been killed in the fighting.

President Briefed on Offensive

BK270600 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Colombo, May 27 (AFP) — Government forces continued to hit against Tamil separatist strongholds for the second running day Wednesday under cover of a 48-hour curfew in the northern Jaffna peninsula, informed sources here said.

Troops were thrusting northeast in a pincer movement to hem in the coastal areas at the northern tip of the peninsula, the centre of Tamil separatism which is mostly controlled by the Liberation Tigerts of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the sources said. Sea-borne commandos landed before dawn Tuesday at Vadamarachchi, the sector covering the coastal towns of Velvettithurai, Point Pedro and Thondamanaru, they said. At the same time, helicopters landed radio deployment force units flanked by two columns, the sources said.

More than 100 separatists and 10 soldiers died and another 59 soldiers were wounded in Tuesday's strike, they said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who returned from an inspection tour of the front Tuesday, said there were no orders for "frontal attacks" or a "major offensive," and that the current strategy consisted of hitting selected targets of the LTTE and its smaller ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation [of Students] (EROS). "What we will do later will be decided once we have consolidated our gains and completed the present plan," Mr. Athulathmudali said.

The minister said that among many separatists killed in the strikes Tuesday was Deevan, second-in-command of the LTTE in the northeast. "But the LTTE is telling its people in Madras to say that hundreds of civilians have been killed by the Sinhala army," Mr. Athulathmudali said.

Radio communications between the LTTE in Jaffna and its base in the southern Indian city of Madras, intercepted by Sri Lankan intelligence, showed that the LTTE wanted to propagandize the killing of civilians, the minister said. He said civilians were given adequate warning to move out of target areas into schools, churches and temples to avoid being harmed.

Mr. Athulathmudali said he could not immediately say how many separatists were killed in the fighting, but said said the toll was at 18 when he left Jaffna. The military casualties were victims of landmines or booby traps, he said.

Official sources denied LTTE reports from Madras that six Air Force jets, sea planes and helicopters had dropped incendiary bombs on schols and houses. "To begin with, the Air Force does not have jets," the source said.

Mr. Athulathmudali briefed President Junius Jayewardene Tuesday night after his return from the front, and the president is expected to tell his ministers of the military situation when the cabinet meets later Wednesday.

Mr. Jayewardene had ordered the military high command to restore order in the Jaffna peninsula, holding the LTTE and EROS responsible for last month's massacres of more than 250 people here and in the east of this island republic. Shortly after the killings, the Air Force was ordered to attack LTTE and EROS positions, including communication facilities and ammunition depots.

Ground troops were hardly used in that operation, but the current strike was then planned to allow infantry and armour to hit selected targets and reduce civilian casualties, reliable sources said.

The curfew in Jaffna is due to be lifted at dawn Thursday, but could be extended if senior military commanders assessing the situation on the ground later Wednesday deem it necessary, the sources said.

'Minimal' Resistance Cited

BK271015 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0950 GMT 27 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 27 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Media Centre in Colombo commenting on the latest situation in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka told LANKA PUWATH today that the 48 hour curfew declared at 0600 hours (local time) yesterday morning in the Jaffna Peninsula continues on to its second day today.

Citizens who were requested by means of leaflets dropped from the air to forgather in 18 places in colleges, kovils, churches etc., were given firstly a two hour grace period to move to those safe places. The civilians have responded to the government's call and have assembled in these safe places.

This is the first time advance warning was given to citizens anywhere in the world, before launching an attack on terrorist strongholds. In point of fact for over three months there were many leaflets in English and Tamil dropped in the peninsula warning of an offensive against the terrorists.

The government has ordered that air [word indistinct] be minimal and limited only to extreme contingencies. Aircraft are used to spot terrorist concentrations or civilian concentrations only. Each battalion has been given a detail of specially trained officers to look after all aspects of welfare and security of villagers where the security forces have obtained dominance. No villages or towns are to be attacked under any circumstances. Security forces are to by-pass such villages and towns and prevent any terrorist attacks launched from civilian centres.

This is also the first time in recent history anywhere in the world where elaborate precautions have been taken to safeguard the civilian population. This has led to very favourable responses from the citizens of the peninsula.

In yesterday's (26-5-87) operation diversionary tactics were also adopted by calling out [words indistinct] concerted advance security forces from all camps except the Jaffna Fort complex. Some of these had limited objectives of linking up with security forces advances from other camps.

Today's reports indicate that steady progress has been made by the security forces [words indistinct] to achieve the government objective of obtaining control of specific areas in the Jaffna Peninsula. The security forces have made steady advances in the Vasavilan, Kankesanturai, Thondamanaru, Velvettiturai and Kattuwan areas. Vadamarachchi area in the eastern and northern seaboard of the peninsula together with the Lagoon area are steadily coming under the dominance of the security forces.

Minimal terrorist resistance is faced. Terrorists are largely fleeing before the infantry, leaving behind booby traps and land mines. Yesterday there was some resistance from terrorist groups in the Thondamanaru and Velvettiturai areas. Around 20 terrorists were killed yesterday morning, after which the terrorists have gone underground. Eleven security forces personnel were killed and 40 injured, some seriously. Most of those killed or injured were due to land mines and booby traps. Some areas have been mined by the terrorists which also makes the advance of security forces extremly slow.

Deputy Foreign Minister Assesses Africa Trip

LD261800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign affairs minister, returning from his trip to the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Zambia, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Mali held a news conference this evening. Evaluating the trip as positive, he said:

Following recent developments in the imposed war and the build up of the superpowers' military presence in the Persian Gulf region, which resulted in a crisis, our country's authorities decided to launch an all-embracing diplomatic move. My trip took place on the basis of that decision.

He went on: During our talks in these countries, we emphasized our righteous position on the war and the crisis created in the Persian Gulf. We announced that there is only one solution to the war, and that is the elimination of Saddam and the Ba'th Party. Many of the officials agreed that Iraq started the war and they accorded us the right to demand punishment for the side which started the war. On the other hand, during our talks with the officials of the three non-permanent members of the Security Council -- Zambia, Ghana, and Congo -- we explained the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran to this council and they promised that if the subject of the Iran-Iraq war is raised in the Council again, they will support the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In connection with the situation in the Persian Gulf, the deputy foreign affairs minister said: We have repeatedly announced the security of the Persian Gulf is an integral part of the security of the entire region, that is, the Persian Gulf belongs to all the surrounding countries and no single country has a monopoly on its security.

Any decision related to this vital waterway should be made by all the countries of the Persian Gulf region.

During our talks with the amir of the UAE, his excellency expressed his opposition to the superpowers' military presence in the region and said Kuwait had requested the superpowers' presence without discussing the matter with the rest of us. We again stressed that under no circumstances are we prepared to abandon our principle position, that is, the defense of our territorial integrity, honor, and Islamic prestige. And we shall not, under any circumstances, allow anybody to sell oil on behalf of our enemy in order to use the revenue to boost the military forces of the regime ruling over Baghdad to enable it to continue its crimes of attacking residential areas, deploying chemical weapons, and threatening the security of aviation and shipping.

We stated we shall maintain the security of the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Sea of Oman, and of course we shall take steps to make Kuwait regret its invitation to the superpowers and major powers to build up their military presence in the region.

In conclusion, referring to his trip as useful, he said: The leaders of the countries visited invited President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to visit their countries.

Threatens Kuwait, Superpowers

LD262110 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Iran's acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati warned here today that if the big powers take any action against the interests of the Islamic Republic "we will make Kuwait sorry for inviting the superpowers and (make) the superpowers (sorry) for aggression in the Persian Gulf."

Speaking at a press conference on the results of his 17-day visit to eight Persian Gulf and African states, Besharati also said, for the Islamic Republic, any country or power helping Iraq, would be regarded an enemy. "We will firmly confront the enemy under any flag and no matter who is supporting it," he stressed.

Besharati returned here Monday after visiting the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Zambia, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali. He said his visit aimed at reiterating Iran's stands vis-a-vis the Iraqi imposed war and regional issues.

The acting foreign minister said the UAE ruler Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan had told him that Kuwait had asked the superpowers to protect its oil exports in the Persian Gulf without consulting the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council.

Besharati said he had realised during his tour to the region that Kuwait had bribed the Muslim countries into participating in the Islamic summit meet (held in Kuwait recently). He said an official in one of the countries he visited told him that his country had been paid dlrs 200 million by Kuwait for its participation in the Islamic summit conference.

On the idea of forming a multi-national force to protect shipping in the Persian Gulf, Besharati said Washington was presently faced with the Irangate and Starkgate scandals and therefore any intervention by the U.S. in the Persian Gulf would be fully to its disadvantage.

By forming a multi-national military force in the Persian Gulf, Besharati went on to say, the U.S. wants to escape the plight and gradually step back from the whirlpool which may eventually turn to a trap for Washington.

'Egyptian Muslim Rebels' Responsible for Cairo Attack

NC261837 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 May 87

[Excerpts] Egyptian Muslim rebels carried out two operations today against Americans working in Egypt, only 3 days after International Jerusalem Day. The Egyptian regime's oppressive policy, in collaboration with Zionist and American intelligence, is continuing to prevent anti-Zionist demonstrations in Egypt. The Egyptian Muslim rebels used their arms in a Cairo suburb this morning to attack a car carrying three diplomats working at the U.S. Embassy. Two of the diplomats were slightly wounded as a result of the shooting. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian Muslim rebels, on their part, have asserted their resolve to continue their struggle and to attack U.S. and Zionist

officials and diplomats in Egypt as long as Husni Mubarak's Zionist and anti-Islam regime continues to cooperate with the usurpers of Jerusalem [words indistinct].

In the meantime, in a revolutionary operation, Western Sahara nomads residing in Egypt opened fire on the car of the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

According to reports, the U.S. ambassador's car was subjected to the armed attack while passing from the area [passage indistinct].

Soldiers, Resistance Fighters Killed in Tehran
AU270810 Paris AFP in English 0440 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Lisbon, May 27 (AFP) — A total of 25 Iranian Government soldiers and two resistance fighters were killed on May 2 in a two-hour battle in a district of Tehran, according to a communique issued here by the People's Mojahedin Iranian opposition movement.

The communique, issued Tuesday, said the government sent in helicopters and troop reinforcements against the insurgents.

The action was the first on this scale claimed by the Mojahedin movement which generally cross border strikes from bases in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The communique also reported an attack out by the Mojahedin in southern Khorasan Province (north eastern Iran) on May 8.

Embassy in Beirut Condemns Tyre Bomb Blast
LD250920 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Beirut, May 25, IRNA — A bomb went off beside the car of the Iranian Embassy delegation in Tyre, southern Lebanon, Sunday, in which the driver was marytred and three pedestrians were injured.

In a statement released by the Iranian Embassy in Beirut the Zionist regime and its agents were strongly condemned for the bomb explosion.

The Iranian delegation had been dispatched to Tyre to take part in the International Jerusalem Day ceremonies and also to witness a military maneuver by Muslim mujahideen. The statement said that the other passenger of the car, an official of the Iranian Embassy, Hamid Sadeqi, escaped the incident.

It stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran would firmly remain a powerful patron for the real resistance against the Zionist regime and would continue supporting the Muslims in Lebanon's Jabal Amal region till the liberation of the occupied lands.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Lebanese Hizbollah in a joint statement condemned this dreadful crime. It called on all Lebanese Muslims to take part in the funeral ceremony for the martyred driver to be held in Tyre, Monday.

Majlis Speaker Addresses IRGC on Iraqi 'Insurrection'
LD241851 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Despite their pretensions to neutrality, the superpowers' direct interference in the Iraqi-imposed war, especially the flying of thier flags on ships of countries supporting the Baghdad regime are all indications of the worsening situation inside Iraq. "This is also an acknowledgment of the might of the Islamic republic," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today.

Speaking to personnel of the Special Airborne Brigade of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), the speaker said the Iranian people are determined to tread their chosen path even at this crucial juncture.

Referring to the ongoing insurrection of the oppressed Iraqi people against the ruling Ba'thist regime in sensitive parts of northern Iraq, the Majlis speaker emphasized on the role of the Iraqi nation in the future of that country.

The speaker also scoffed at the Iraqi regime's claim of enjoying popular support from its people and asked how the Ba'thist regime could claim to be popular while some Iraqi cities had fallen into hands of revolting people only a few days before.

How the Iraqi regime could be popular while it was bombing its own cities and villages in northern Iraq, forcing residents of the bombed sites to immigrate to other parts of the country and using chemical weapons against its own people in a vain bid to suppress the struggle of people, questioned Rafsanjani.

Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that emigration of 4000 Iraqi people to Iran is a further evidence of the shaky position of the Baghdad regime.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said that personnel of the IRGC Airborne Brigade can play a key role in a victory over Iraq.

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran 27 May
NC270559 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca, the Cuban Foreign Minister, arrived in Tehran this morning and was received by our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati, and the ambassadors or charges d'affaires of the Soviet Union, GDR, DPRK, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Hungary.

Upon his arrival, the Cuban foreign minister spoke to our correspondent regarding the objectives of his visit, saying: I have come here at the official invitation of Mr Velayati. We plan to exchange opinions on the more crucial international issues, especially those pertaining to the Nonaligned Movement, the extremely important joint stance of the two countries at the Pyongyang session, and the South-South conference.

He stated that they also planned to discuss the broadening of mutual ties, declaring: We believe that Iranian-Cuban relations

are following a positive course, and we hope that we can take new steps to expand them.

Reportage on Visit of Burundian Foreign Minister

Arrives for Talks 22 May

NC220610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Our correspondent reports that Mr Nkuriyingoma, the Burundian external relations and cooperation minister, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a political and economic delegation that includes the Burundian minister of energy, mines, and public works. The delegation was welcomed by Mr Velayati, our foreign minister.

According to the same report, during his meetings with our country's officials the Burundian minister for external relations and cooperation will discuss bilateral relations and ways of expanding them.

On his arrival in Tehran, the Burundian minister for external relations and cooperation described the objective of his and his accompanying delegation's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as follows: The visit by the Burundian political and economic delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran is in response to an invitation by Iranian officials and its purpose is to display Burundi's friendship with and interest in Iran, as well as to examine ways of expanding relations between the two countries.

He added: We have come to Iran on behalf of our president and during our 4-day stay in the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran, we will study bilateral relations and the two countries' common viewpoints.

It should be noted that the Palestinian issue has a place in Burundi's foreign policy, and thus far Burundi has adopted progressive positions in its approach to this issue and in opposing Israel.

Burundi is situated in East Africa, northeast of Lake Tanganyika. It shares borders with Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zaire. Burundi's population in 1979 was 4,380,000. Its people are mostly black. Part of the population is Muslim.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD231316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] The foreign minister of the Republic of Burundi, who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation, today met with Foreign Minister Velayati. According to a Central News Unit report, at this meeting the Burundian foreign minister praised the Islamic Revolution and said: Because of Iran's policy regarding the Third World and deprived countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran is perceived as the friend of Burundi.

He added: The Republic of Burundi is counting on the assistance of friendly countries in its struggle for freedom and preservation of its ideals, and for us the Islamic Republic of Iran is counted as an important country.

Referring to the glorious position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena, he said: Burundi holds positions similar Iran's with regard to problems of Palestine, Afghanistan, and South Africa.

According to this report, Foreign Minister Velayati referred to the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in expanding its relations with the Third World and African countries and explained the achievements of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He then enumerated the conspiracies of the global arrogance against the Islamic Revolution and referred to the imposed war and the new weapons of the global arrogance with regard to breeding insecurity in the Persian Gulf and extending war to other countries — which is being done by the ruling regime in Iraq.

He said: At the beginning of the war, when our territory was under Iraqi occupation, no serious word was said regarding a halt to the war and the Iraqi aggression, but now that our forces have repulsed the aggression to a great extent everywhere there is talk of compromise. But as long as this government exists in Iraq we will continue to fight. We will also confront the conspiracy to expand the war. We have repeatedly declared that the security of the Persian Gulf must rest only with the regional countries and that invitations to foreign powers to interfere in this sensitive region is treason which in reality adds to the tension in the region. What has happened in the Persian Gulf during the past few days indicates how vulnerable the security of the region is to outside interference. It also shows how dangerous it is for the superpowers to become involved in this sensitive region. In the Persian Gulf there is security either for everybody or for nobody.

In conclusion the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that the Iraqi regime had repeatedly violated the law banning the use of chemical weapons and attacks on residential areas, and that this problem has been confirmed by the United Nations.

Meets With Musavi 25 May

LD251317 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1044 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The Burundian minister of external affairs and the minister of social affairs met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi today. At the meeting, the Burundian minister of external affairs said he was pleased to have traveled to Iran and added: We have always stressed solidarity with the Islamic revolution of Iran and have been curious about the way you implement your just domestic and foreign policies. He referred to the imposed war and said that any kind of end to the war should be based on justice. He added: From now on, we will act as sincere witnesses to developments in Iran and will not hesitate to rise up in your defense in international assemblies.

The report adds: Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi expressed his happiness over the Burundian delegation's visit and said: The Islamic Republic's 8-year history is one of resistance to and confrontation

with international oppression. We have proved that if a nation so wishes, it can stand as long as it relys on God and its people.

The prime minister referred to the recent events in the Persian Gulf and said: We have announced that the presence of the superpowers will cause and spread tension in the Persian Gulf and it would be wrong for America to imagine it can contain the crisis it has created in the region. The prime minister said: Very soon the side effects and limits of this crisis will spread to all parts of the region, even to America and Europe. The prime minister stressed that the imposed war will only end when the aggressor receives his punishment. He said: Under those circumstances, the Islamic Republic will have better and more constructive relations with countries of the region and the world, especially Africa.

Holds Talks With Khamene'i

LD251410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] At a meeting today with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Mr Egide Nkuriyingoma, the Burundian minister of external relations, conveyed a friendly message and warm greetings from his president to Imam Khomeyni and our president. Our correspondent reports that at this meeting Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and several Burundian officials accompanying the Burundian foreign minister were present.

The Burundian foreign minister said: During this trip we have had the opportunity of familiarizing ourselves with the impressive fruits of the Islamic revolution. On our return, we will publicize what we have seen in your country.

Mr Khamene'i thanked him for the Burundian president's friendly message and his interest in expanding and deepening relations between the two countries. He said: The Islamic Republic is especially desirous of establishing relations with Third World and African countries because the African countries have been subjected for a long time to disasters and hostilities by world powers. One can still see evidence of the pressures and hostilities in the lives of some African countries. As our country has been under direct and indirect pressure from world powers for a long time we feel a sense of historic kinship and closeness with African countries.

The president stressed the fact that the present policy of the Islamic Republic when confronted with aggression and intervention by the superpowers is a policy of resistance and steadfastness. He added: The superpowers are never going to abandon their expansionist policies. This issue requires more solidarity and hard work by Third World countries. The closer these countries get, the stronger their resistance will be against aggression by world oppression. The president noted the abjectness of the superpowers in the face of recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and added: The recent events in the Persian Gulf are the clear result of aggression and the expansionist policies of the superpowers in our region. That is why we are strong in our resolve to resist the superpowers. We have no doubt that our resistance will force the superpowers to retreat. In fact, contrary to what they pretend, these superpowers are quite vulnerable.

Joint Communique Issued

LD261009 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Iran and Burundi condemned the Iraqi-imposed war, Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons and interference of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf in a joint communique issued Tuesday.

According to the communique, issued at the end of the four-day visit of a Burundian politico-economic delegation headed by that country's foreign minister Eridehengori Biyengomaa [name and title as received] attempts of international arrogance to impose its views on the oppressed countries were strongly denounced.

The two countries denounced apartheid and racism calling for an end to the present apartheid rule in South Africa and the coming to power of a legally elected government stemming from the black majority.

Flaying the Pretorian regime for its attacks on frontline states, Iran and Burundi called on the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization for African Unity (OAU) members to strengthen the economic and military potentials of the frontline countries to enable them to crush the aggressions of the South African regime.

The two countries condemned South Africa's support for counterrevolutionary groups such as 'unit' [as received] and MNR in neighbouring countires.

Announcing their support for the objectives of the NAM Iran and Burundi called for further understanding among member states urging them to considerate their joint interests and to stand firmly against decisions of the superpowers.

The two sides demanded immediate freedom for the occupied Namibian territory within the framework of Resolution 435 of the U.N. Security Council and announced their support for the Southwest African People's Organisation (SWAPO) as the sole legal representative of the Namibian people. They also urged intensification of SWAPO's political and armed struggle against the apartheid Pretorian regime.

Iran and Burundi further condemned the military occupation of Afghanistan by foreign forces and stressed that the only solution to the problem would be withdrawal of all usurpant forces and restoration of the rights of the Afghan people in determining their own fate.

The two sides also condemned crimes committed by the Zionist regime to weaken Muslims in the region and called for the complete liberation of the occupied lands through armed struggle and return of oppressed Palestinians to their homeland. They expressed support for the struggles of Lebanese people in liberating their territory from Zionist occupation.

Iran and Burundi strongly condemned attempts of several reactionary countries to bring the issue of Palestine to a compromise and stall legitimate struggles of the oppressed Palestinian people.

The two sides condemned the war imposed on Iran by Iraq, Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against Iranian civilian targets and military forces, and interference of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf. They stressed that security of the Persian Gulf should be safeguarded by the littoral states themselves.

The two countries announced their firm determination in furthering unity among oppressed people throughout the world and called on them to wage a relentless campaign against international arrogance.

Oil Agreement Signed

LD261313 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 26 May 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Iran will export 10,000 barrels of crude oil per day to Burundi as of June 1st. This was announced following the signing of a contract between Iran and Burundi during the last round of talks between the visiting Burundi Oil and Energy Minister Izidoreh Miyaaboyaa and Iranian Oil officials, headed by deputy Oil Minister for International and Commercial Affairs Hoseyn Kazempour Ardebili, here Monday.

The one-year contract was concluded in accordance with Iran's policy to expand economic and political cooperation with African countries. The price of crude exports to Burundi will be set according to OPEC prices. [passage omitted]

UN's 'Lax Attitude' on Chemical Warfare Condemned

LD241811 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 24, IRNA — The recent half-hearted statement of the United Nations Security Council on the confirmed Iraqi use of chemical weapons against Iran, was categorically criticized by an official in charge of the anti-chemical units of the Islamic Revolution Gurads Corps (IRGC) here today.

Speaking at a press conference Mohammad-Baqer Nik-Khah [name as received] called on the Security Council to resolutely condemn the Iraqi regime for repeatedly violating the international ban on toxic arms, he asked the U.N. body to use its influence to prevent the Ba'thist regime from deploying the toxic substances.

The Iraqi regime has repeatedly used chemical weapons against Iranian combatants since the outset of its six-and-a-half-year imposed war, Nik-Khah said, but it has escalated its chemical bombardment since 1984. "This is largely due to the negative stance of the United Nations and other international bodies on this grave issue," he added.

Nik-Khah said that the Iraq regime's chemical attacks on the Muslim forces were unprecedented in the last hundred years of warfare around the globe. The Ba'thist regime fired a record 500 rockets and artillery shells at Iranian combatants each containng 3 to 40 liters of lethal toxic substances.

The Baghdad regime, by taking advantage of the United Nations' lax atittude, has recently used chemical weapons against Iranian border cities of Sardasht and Baneh in Kordestan Province in addition to the Kurdish populated areas in northern Iraq. Some 1,000 Iraqi Kurds and about 400 Iranian civilians were wounded as a result of these dastardly attacks, Nik-Khah said.

Referring to the devastating effects of the chemical weapons on the environment the IRGC official once again urged international circles to condemn the Iraqi regime for its mischievous acts.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Ships Intercepted in Strait

LD261552 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 12 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, three vehicles, three munition dumps and one command jeep destroyed by Iranian artillery fire throughout the fronts Monday.

Announcing the above here Tuesday, the 2848th [number as received] joint staff communique said that Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz but found no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

In the northwestern fronts yesterday, Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions and troop concentraion sites, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy troops and destroying several gun emplacements, two munition dumps and one vehicle of theirs.

In the western fronts, exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops Monday as a result of which a number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump and six gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs were set ablaze.

Movement of Iraqi vehicle columns in Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar, western fronts, were checked by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces yesterday. Iranian artillery fire also suppressed reinforcement activities of Iraqi troops in areas overlooking Naft-e Shah.

In the southern fronts, Iranian combatants opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on key Iraqi positions in Tangnasrian [name as received], Zafaraniyah, Bejliyeh, Zayd and Majnun Islands, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy troops.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and one enemy command jeep and six emplacements of various weapons were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Communique Details Fighting

LD251604 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and searched three cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

Announcing the above here Monday, the 2874th [number as received] Joint Staff Communique said that Muslim Forces of Iran heavily pounded Iraqi positions and supply routes with artillery, mortar and tank fire throughout the fronts especially in the southern fronts yesterday.

In the northwestern fronts Sunday, Iranian Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy troops and silencing their fire. Two heavy enemy vehicles were also set ablaze in Sardasht.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, Iranian forces maintaining the upper hand reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions yesterday silencing enemy fire and suppressing their surveillance activities. An enemy patrol convoy was shelled and forced to flee in Sumar.

Iraqi forces sustained considerable casualties and losses when Iranian gendarmerie forces shelled enemy positions in Kordestan, Ilam and Khuzestan border fronts yesterday.

Iran's Muslim combatants opened heavy fire on Iraqi supply routes and gun emplacements in the southern fronts Sunday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying a large amount of their equipment. In Eynkhosh, a number of enemy patrols were killed or wounded by Iranian artillery fire.

Artillery fire of Iranian forces targetted Iraqi positions, bunkers and watch towers in Majnun Islands and Kushk, killing several enemy soldiers, the communique concluded.

Tehran Commentary on 'Stark,' Developments in War

NC251417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 25 May 87

[Commentary from the "Developments on the Front" feature]

[Text] World attention has recently shifted to the developments in the imposed war following the attack on the *USS Stark*. Basically, there is no need to explain that one of that incident's immediate outcomes was to overshadow the course of the imposed war.

The Iraqi Ba'thists are in an uneviable position in light of the Islamic combatants' continuous victories on the fronts and the lightning developments in northern Iraq which are rapidly upsetting the balance of power in Iraq's Kurdish-inhabited provinces, and especially in Al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, to the benefit of the anti-Ba'thist popular forces. Naturally, apart from further uniting the anti-Saddam masses, reporting these defeats will enlighten the world to the current reality in Iraq of a growing weakness and shakiness among the 'Aflaqite rulers. This automatically brings into question the credibility of those world powers that have flagrantly adopted a stand to preserve the Ba'thist regime.

Therefore, it is very clear that a major outcome of the attack on the U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf was to distract world attention from the Ba'thist regime's problems. But because the Saddamists have run out of luck, the news of the *Stark* incident turned into an element which more than ever proved to the world the critical situation that the Iraqi regime faces.

First, that this incident was created by the 'Aflaqite rulers themselves — that is, the Iraqi fighters allegedly mistakenly carried out this attack — revealed to the world the extent of the 'Aflaqites' bankruptcy and anxiety which compelled them to carry out this attack against their mentors.

Of course, it is clear that the issue will not change even if we assume the Iraqi Ba'thist regime actually committed a mistake in carrying out this attack, because the absence of necessary instructions in implementing this operation and, following this, the Iraqi politicians' contradictory reactions with regard to assuming responsibility, only proved the existence of numerous decision-makers and a ruling disorder.

However, more important than this is a second element that emphasized the Baghdad regime's excessive weakness, namely, the virulent and hasty remarks by U.S. officials against the Islamic Republic following the Saddamists' official apologies.

Reagan, Weinberger, Shultz, and other U.S officials have repeatedly recently stated that despite Iraq's attack on the *Stark*, Washington will not alter its policy of supporting Saddam nor allow the revolutionary government of Iran to win the war.

In relation to this stand, the first question that immediately arises in the minds of any curious person is: What truly has happened and what developments have taken place on the battlefronts that impelled the Yankees to so blatantly speak of a possible Iranian victory? Have their excellencies not repeatedly stated throughout the course of the war, and especially recently, that the conflict is at an impasse and that neither side can achieve a military victory? Therefore, what new incident has taken place that has considerably altered the balance of power to the benefit of the Islamic Republic and has thus forced the Americans and Ba'thist Iraq's other mentors to show their claws and teeth and to overtly speak of a possible Iranian victory? Is it not a fact that the Islamic combatants' strong blows and also the awesome growth of popular movements within Iran have greatly threatened the Saddamists? Is it not a fact that this same crisis has forced the world's hegemonist powers toward a stronger reaction and, ultimately to accept the risk of maintaining a presence in the Persian Gulf?

In any event, the Islamic Republic — while preserving its rights to utilize all of its capabilities in the Persian Gulf and at that waterway's strategic points to confront any foreign threat — draws the hegemonist powers' attention to the fact that the aggressive Saddamists are drowning rapidly, and that our nation will soon punish this criminal band for its crimes, whether or not the Yankees want this. Therefore, it is in the Americans' interest

to learn from the past and to practice caution and not swim against the strong current of this immense development.

Apart from the hegemonist powers' mischief that has today transformed the Iraqi Ba'thists loathsome practices in the Persian Gulf into a pretext to increase their presence in the region, the current developments in the Gulf are basically two-pronged. The first concerns those countries that utilize the Gulf to deliver raw materials to their industries, or those countries that have an economic interest in this waterway. The second issue is that of regional countries and especially Persian Gulf countries.

Naturally, both sides' interests lie in preserving and consolidating Persian Gulf security. Therefore, on the one hand, the Western bloc should — to prevent an intensification of threats by the world powers — cease supplying Iraq with modern weapons and do what they can to pressure the superpowers to halt their recent games and not to threaten Persian Gulf security through their increased military presence in the region.

As for the Persian Gulf littoral states, their irresponsible and unprincipled acts in inviting imperialist powers to the region primarily threatens their own interests, a fact which the Islamic Republic has repeatedly emphasized to them. These states should also realize that the world powers are incapable of ensuring the security of their own forces in the region.

The indivisibility of Persian Gulf security means that no country and no government will escape the flames if a fire is sparked off in the region.

[Begin unidentified official's recording] The very important issue is the Persian Gulf countries, whose leaders should bear in mind that we do not covet Iraqi territory, let alone their countries. We can be a good friend, a very good mentor to the Persian Gulf countries. They are mistaken if they believe the United States is their mentor. When those countries find themselves in a difficult situation, the Americans will stop supporting them, as they stopped supporting the shah. We do not want these countries to be fooled by the United States nor by Saddam who is provoking them into doing certain things. Saddam will not be here permanently, and the Persian Gulf leaders know this. Saddam and the Ba'thist Party will go. The Muslim people of Iraq do not want Saddam and the Ba'thist Party. These Persian Gulf countries should put an end to their actions and think more logically, and not do anyting that will rouse their own peoples' opposition in the future. It is to their benefit to support the Islamic Republic's regime. It is to their benefit to listen to our dear imam, to stop supporting and helping Saddam. We have no plans against them. They should be absolutely certain that we will fulfill all our promises

We hope that with the fall of Saddam and of the Ba'thist Party, the Middle East, and especially the Persian Gulf, will have peace so that the people of this region can live in a fraternal atmosphere.

God willing, the Islamic countries will form a front against Israel in the future. We will destroy Israel and liberate Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. We hope to see that day. [end recording]

Tehran Commentary on Islam's 'Definite Victory'

NC251222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 25 May 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary entitled "A Strong Reason for Definite Victory"]

[Text] When the slogan of "Khorramshahr, we are coming" appeared on walls throughout our country and its shouting displayed our people's determination, the arrogant powers' propaganda machinery still fully expected to be able to deprive us of any hope of regaining our occupied cities. At this particular time, the ruler of Al-Qadisiyah, who occupied Khorramshahr and had turned it into Khuninshahr [city of blood], thought his Zionist plan to turn Khuzestan into Arabistan would be a certain success and was trying to implement his plan. It was also at this time that the ruler's masters, who were very far from the scene of the conflict, did not conceal their happiness with the fact that our country's largest port was under occupation, and they continued their programs of suppression and pressure against the great Islamic revolution.

However, it was not long before the revolution forces' operations to regain the occupied territories began. The Sani' al-A'immah, Tariq al-Quds, and Fath al-Mubin operations took place one after the other, to the genuine awe of the arrogant powers, and deadly blows were dealt to the forces that had infiltrated the country of the revolution. Many occupied territories were liberated, but Khorramshahr continued to suffer under the occupation of those who, in addition to plundering the people's wealth, had taken the elderly and disabled as prisoners of war.

Finally, a great battle code-named "Jerusalem," which military experts described as unprecedented in the history of world wars, was prepared. Following the battle's three operational phases, the enemy was defeated, and the unforgettable shouts of "Allah is great" heralded the liberation of Khorramshahr. The people changed the slogan "Khorramshahr, we are coming" to the victory slogan "Khorramshahr has been liberated; Karbala' we are coming."

As a result of the "Jerusalem" operation, 16,000 Ba'thist soldiers were killed and wounded, 19,000 were captured by the forces of Islam, and hundreds of tanks, APCs, and armored units were either destroyed or taken by the forces of Islam.

Following the liberation of Khorramshahr, which was a turning point in the holy war being waged by the Muslim Iranian nation against the enemies of Islam, the course of the war changed dramatically. Gradually, with the continuation of the pitiless blows dealt by the combatants of Islam and the use of special amphibious tactics by the young commanders, as well as with the increased dispatch of volunteers to the fronts, the forces of Islam began a series of great victories. These victories, which were made possible by the complete unity between the Armed Forces and the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, as well as the effective support of the Basij forces, led to major developments on the battlefields and the diplomatic scene.

With the change in the course of the war, world arrogance began to express its concern. The United States considered the continu-

ation of the war as contrary to its interests and called for its termination. The Soviet Union described the continuation of the war as meaningless, also calling for a cease-fire and a solution through negotiation.

Gradually, with more spectacular victories scored by the Islamic combatants, along with the occupation of the Majnun Islands and of the Al-Faw peninsula amid the awe of political and military observers, pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran for a compromise with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime increased. Those who had not been able to reach their objectives by imposing the war on the Islamic Republic of Iran, gradually realized that the entire Iraqi Ba'this regime was threatened. Secret methods of assistance were revealed, and overt supports intensified. The policy of the arrogant powers in propaganda, political, military, and economic supports to the Iraqi regime became so blatant that there remained no place for any doubt that this war is not a war between Iraq and Iran, but a war between the Islamic revolution and all infidels. Any step forward taken by the Islamic revolution in this conflict is matched by increased pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, so far, the Islamic Republic of Iran, thanks to decisive leadership and extensive popular support, continues to progress in the stormy sea of various plots. Each day, with the help of God Almighty, it scores more victories and makes more certain the defeat of Islam's enemies.

The explosion on the warship *Stark* is the most recent example of the disgrace and defeat of the arrogant powers. However, this is just the beginning. The arrogant powers are trying in vain to delay the downfall of the corrupt Iraqi regime with their presence in the Persian Gulf waters, not knowing that the Iranian nation has resolved to punish the aggressor, and in doing this, it will neutralize any pressure and thwart any plot.